

Appl. No. 09/531,135
Amdt. Dated January 3, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of October 5, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0027
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 2-6 and 8-10 have been allowed, and claims 1, 7 and 11 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons set forth hereafter. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 5 on page 3 of the final Office Action, claims 1, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamanaka et al. The reasons for the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 11 are then discussed in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 on pages 3-7 of the final Office Action. However, the statements set forth therein indicate that the analysis of these claims in view of the prior art is not correct. Thus, in the last three lines at the bottom of page 4 of the final Office Action, the statement is made that the drive circuit of Yamanaka et al. drives the first and second light receiving pixels "to further accumulate information charges in the first and second light receiving pixels and further adds information charges thus accumulated in the first and second light receiving pixels (see Figs. 2D and 2E and also see col. 3, lines 17-33, and col. 8, lines 17-22)". Again in lines 1 and 2 at the top of page 6 of the final Office Action, the drive circuit of Yamanaka is said to drive the first and second light receiving pixels "to further accumulate information charges in the first and second light receiving pixels and further adds information charges thus accumulated in the first and second light receiving pixels ...". Again at lines 3 and 4 of page 7, the drive circuit of Yamanaka is said to drive the first and second light receiving pixels "to further accumulate information charges in the first and second light receiving pixels and further adds information charges thus accumulated in the first and second light receiving pixels ...". However, the statements that the drive circuit further adds information charges thus accumulated in the first "and second light receiving pixels" is not true of the present

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invention. Claims 1, 7 and 11 recite the drive circuit "and further adds information charges accumulated in the first light receiving pixels and the added information charges "in the last three lines of claim 1, for example. Claims 7 and 11 contain similar language in the last several lines thereof.

Thus, claims 1, 7 and 11 define a feature in accordance with the invention which is neither disclosed nor suggested in Yamanaka et al. For instance, with the present invention, and as clearly set forth in claims 1, 7 and 11, after information charges are accumulated in the first and second light receiving pixels, the accumulated charges in those pixels are added together. Subsequently, after performing further accumulation of information charges in the first and second light receiving pixels, the information charges further accumulated in the first light receiving pixels are added together with the previously added charges.

Yamanaka discloses a configuration in which pixel mixing is performed using odd line data and even line data. However, nowhere does the reference disclose or suggest adding information charges accumulated in the odd and even lines and, after further accumulating information charges in the odd and even lines, adding the information charges further accumulated in the odd lines and the previously added charges. Accordingly, the invention defined by claims 1, 7 and 11 is not anticipated by Yamanaka et al.

Therefore, claims 1, 7 and 11 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

In paragraph 9 on page 7 of the final Office Action, claims 2-6 and 8-10 are allowed.

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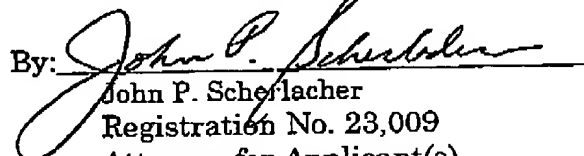
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In conclusion, claims 2-6 and 8-10 are allowed and claims 1, 7 and 11 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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